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7/1/09

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Piney Creek Corporation, Water System (PWSID MD017-0021)

July 1, 2009

We're pleased to present the 2008 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform Swan Cove Lane residents about the quality of water and services we deliver every day. Our goal is to provide a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

The source of our drinking water is one well drilled into the Aquia aquifer, which lies about 210 feet beneath the ground. The Aquia is an underground layer of porous sand saturated with water and confined on the top and bottom by impervious layers of clay through which we pump water directly into our distribution system. Water in this aquifer is continuously replenished by surface water percolating through porous soils in southern Kent County and northern Queen Anne's County. As the water moves through the porous soils, it is purified while at the same time it dissolves minerals such as iron, calcium, etc., from the soils.

A **source water assessment** was performed by Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). This assessment outlines the potential sources of contamination for our raw water supply. The final report was issued in the spring of 2009. The susceptibility analysis for Piney Creek Corporation's water supply is based on a review of the water quality data, potential sources of contamination, aquifer characteristics, and well integrity. **Piney Creek Corporation's water supply is not susceptible to contaminants originating at the land surface** due to the protected nature of confined aquifer, except for microbiological contaminants due to the location of the supply well in an area subject to tidal flooding.

The Corporation's drinking water meets Federal and State standards. The following report is in compliance with Federal EPA regulations and is provided annually to the consumer. This report outlines the quality of our drinking water and what that quality means. The Corporation contracted with Tom Crabtree to operate and maintain our water system. We also monitor the quality of water we distribute to the consumer following guidelines established by Federal and State regulations.

If you have any questions about this report or the water utility, please contact Shelia Cernak, Secretary (410) 643-6040.

Piney Creek Corporation routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table on the following page shows required monitoring results for January 1 - December 31, 2008, and non-required contaminants from 2008 for your information. Bacteria are monitored monthly at specific locations throughout the distribution system. A permanent chlorine disinfection system was added in October of 2004 to correct ongoing positive bacteria test results. There were no positive bacteria test results in 2008. In 2008 we had one violation for failing to mail a copy of this Annual Report dated July 1, 2008 to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) by July 1, 2008 as required, but were in compliance in August 2008 when it was received by MDE. The Annual Report was delivered to all customers (the residences of Swan Cove Lane) of our public water system in a timely manner on July 1, 2008.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or manmade. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It is important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the drinking water poses a health risk. The presence of some contaminants in drinking water is unavoidable, but we make every effort to keep our water at or below the levels specified by law as being safe for consumption. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Piney Creek Corporation is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead. In addition, attached to this report is the MDE publication "Lead Public Education Guidance".

Definitions

In this report you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Non-Detects (ND) -laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in $10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/L) - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in $10,000,000.

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements a water system must follow.

P/A Indicates Presence or Absence of contaminants

Maximum Contaminant Level- The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. If contaminant level is exceeded, that triggers action on the part of provider (action level- see above).

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal ~ The "Goal"(MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Pico Curie per Liter (pCi/L) Unit of measurement for radioactivity

Detected contaminants NOT in violation of the Maximum Contamination Level

CONTAMINANT	VIOLATION Y/N	LEVEL DETECTED	UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	MCL	MCLG	DATE OF SAMPLE	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Cadmium	N	.005	mg/L	.005	NA	Nov 08	Erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate	N	1	mg/L	10	NA	Jan 08	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching

Detection of these substances in the drinking water does not constitute a known threat to public health because they were found only at levels less than the MCL and below the level that EPA currently feels may constitute a health threat. MCLs are set at very stringent levels, and Piney Creek's water has proved to be below those levels for the contaminants listed above. While your drinking water meets EPA's standards, it did periodically contain total coliform.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in the drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as those people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
WATER SUPPLY PROGRAM

THE LEAD AND COPPER RULE

LEAD PUBLIC EDUCATION GUIDANCE

For Community Water Systems

Piney Creek Corp. Water System
name of facility
Shelia Cernak
contact name
410-643-6040
telephone number
7-1-09
date of delivery

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT LEAD

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and your local water provider are concerned about lead in your drinking water. Although most homes in this community have low levels of lead in their drinking water, a sampling has found that some homes have lead levels above the recommended EPA action level of 15 parts per billion (or 0.015 milligrams per liter). Under Federal law we are required to have a program in place to minimize lead in your drinking water. This program includes corrosion control treatment, source water treatment, and public education. If you have any questions about how we are carrying out these requirements, please give us a call at the above listed telephone number. **Read this brochure to find out what you can do to reduce your exposure to lead in drinking water and why lead is dangerous to your health.**

LEAD IN THE ENVIRONMENT

Lead is a common, natural, and often useful metal found throughout the environment in air, soil, lead-based paint, household dust, food, drinking water, and certain types of pottery, porcelain, and pewter. Lead can pose a significant risk to your health if too much of it enters your body. **This risk is especially high for pregnant women and young children.**

LEAD AND YOUR HEALTH

Lead builds up in the body over many years and can cause damage to the brain, red blood cells, and kidneys. The greatest risk is to young children, pregnant women, and their unborn babies. Amounts of lead that won't hurt adults can slow down normal mental and physical development of growing bodies. In addition, a child at play often comes into contact with sources of lead contamination – like dirt and dust – that rarely affect an adult. It is important to wash children's hands and toys often, and to try to make sure they only put food in their mouths.

LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure, particularly the exposure of infants who drink baby formulas and concentrated juices that are mixed with water. The EPA estimates that drinking water can make up to 20 percent or more of a person's total exposure to lead.

Lead seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like rivers, lakes, and wells. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, *or wearing away*, of materials containing lead that are in the water distribution system and household plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass, and chrome plated brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect your house to the water main (service lines). In 1986, the United States Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes, and other plumbing material to 8.0%.

When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon after returning from work or school, can contain fairly high levels of lead.

Despite your local water provider's best efforts to control water corrosivity, lead levels in some homes or buildings have been found to be high. To find out whether you need to take action in your own home, you **should have your drinking water tested** to determine if it contains excessive concentrations of lead. Because you cannot see, taste, or smell lead in your drinking water, having your water tested by a **State-approved laboratory** is essential. Contact the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Water Supply Program toll free at (800) 633-6101 x3729 or (410) 537-3729 for a list of laboratories State-certified for lead analysis. In addition, your local water provider can provide information on having your water tested.

If a water test indicates that the drinking water drawn from a **kitchen or bathroom sink** tap in your home contains lead above the EPA action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb), then you should take the following precautions outlined in this pamphlet.

FLUSH YOUR TAP

Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in a faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. The longer water sits in your home's plumbing, the more lead it may contain. Flushing the tap means running the cold water faucet until the water gets noticeably colder, usually about 15 to 30 seconds.

If your house has a lead service line* to the water main, you may have to flush the water for a longer time, perhaps one minute, before drinking. Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of your home's plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking.

If you live in a high-rise building, letting the water flow before using it may not work to lessen your risk from lead. The plumbing systems have more, and sometimes larger, pipes than smaller buildings. Ask your landlord for help in locating the source of the lead and for advice on reducing the lead level.

Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to protect your family's health. It usually uses less than one or two gallons of water. To conserve water, fill a couple of bottles for drinking water after flushing the tap, and whenever possible, use the first flush water to wash dishes or water plants.

DRAW COLD WATER FOR COOKING

Never cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Hot water can dissolve lead more quickly than cold water. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and heat it on the stove or in the microwave oven.

CHECK HOME PLUMBING

Remove loose lead solder and debris from the plumbing materials installed in newly constructed homes, or homes in which the plumbing has recently been replaced, by removing the faucet strainers from all taps and running the water for 3 to 5 minutes. Thereafter, periodically remove the strainers and flush out any debris that has accumulated over time.

If your copper pipes are joined with lead solder that has been installed illegally since it was banned in 1986, notify the plumber who did the work and request that he or she replace the lead solder with lead-free solder (*NOTE: Lead solder looks dull gray, and when scratched with a key looks shiny*). In addition, notify your County plumbing inspector about the violation.

DO I HAVE LEAD SERVICE LINES*?

Determine whether or not the service line that connects your home or apartment to the water main is made of lead (*NOTE: Very few public water systems in Maryland have lead service lines*). The best way to determine if your service line is make of lead is by either hiring a licensed plumber to inspect the line or by contacting the plumbing contractor who installed the line (check the City's record of building permits for the name of the contractor). A licensed plumber can, at the same time, check to see if your home's plumbing contains lead solder, lead pipes, or pipe fittings that contain lead. Your local water provider should also have records of the materials located in the distribution system.

WHAT IF I HAVE A LEAD SERVICE LINE?

If the service line that connects your dwelling to the water main is made of lead and contributes more than 15 ppb of lead to drinking water, after a comprehensive treatment program is in place, the

water provider is required to replace the line. If the water provider only partially controls the line, it is required to provide you with information on how to replace your portion of the service line, and offer to replace that portion of the line at your expense and take a follow-up tap water sample within 14 days of the replacement. Acceptable replacement alternatives include copper, steel, iron, and plastic pipes.

CHECK HOME WIRING

Have an electrician check your wiring. If grounding wires from the electrical system are attached to your pipes, corrosion may be greater. Check with a licensed electrician or your local electrical code to determine if your wiring can be grounded elsewhere. DO NOT attempt to change the wiring yourself because improper grounding can cause electrical shock and fire hazards.

BOTTLED WATER AND HOME WATER TREATMENT

The steps described above will reduce the lead concentrations in your drinking water. However, if a water test indicates that the drinking water coming from your kitchen or bathroom sink tap contains lead concentrations in excess of 15 ppb after flushing, or after your water provider has completed actions to minimize lead levels, then you may want to purchase or lease a home treatment device or purchase bottled water for drinking or cooking.

Most home water treatment devices are "point-of-use" devices which treat only the water that flows from the faucet to which it is connected. All of these devices require periodic maintenance and replacement. Other home water treatment units are "point-of-entry" systems which treat all the water entering your home. These require periodic maintenance as well. Devices such as reverse osmosis systems or distillers can effectively remove lead from your drinking water. Some activated carbon filters *may* reduce lead levels at the tap, however all lead reduction claims should be investigated. **Be sure to check the actual performance of a specific home treatment device before and after installing the unit by having your water tested.**

Bottled water is regulated by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Contact the Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DHMH) Division of Food Control at (410) 767-8400 for more information.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Your local water provider cares about the health and welfare of this community and will take all necessary steps to reduce your exposure to lead from drinking water.

You can consult a variety of sources for additional information. Your family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide you with information about the health effects of lead. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at (410) 537-3859 or the County Health Department can provide you with information about the health effects of lead and how you can have your child's blood tested. Other State and local government agencies that can be contacted are listed in this brochure.